Shropshire Entomology

A newsletter focusing on the study of insects and other invertebrates in Shropshire (Vice County 40)

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Welcome

Welcome to the 15th edition of *Shropshire Entomology*.

This edition includes some County Recorder reports for 2018 and the usual mix of other articles. Please do continue to submit your notes and articles. We are particularly keen to receive notes of new species for Shropshire. The deadline for the next edition, to be published next autumn is 31 October 2019. Please send contributions to vc40insects@talktalk.net

Nigel Jones and Gordon Leel

Shropshire Entomology is published online as a freely available pdf from http://www.shropshireecology.co.uk/entomology.html

Past newsletters are still available for download as PDFs from www.invertebrate-challenge.org.uk/newsletters-and-resources.aspx

Submission guidelines for articles

Please wherever possible state authors for key species mentioned in the article eg. *Phaeostigma notata* (Fabricius, 1781)

Photographs should ideally be above 200kb in size. We may crop photos to fit. Please provide the photographer's name or the source of the photograph.

Please send text in a word file. Only use capital letters for site or people's names. Lower case letters should be used for vernacular or common species names except for those named after someone e.g.; Fallen's leatherbug.

Many thanks, the Editors

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Shropshire Entomology Day – Sunday 27 January 2019 at Preston Montford Field Centre.

For details see page 13.

Bees & butterfly bonanza

Volunteers at Severn Valley Country Park have been awarded £500 from Veolia's Make a Difference Awards to create a Butterfly Garden at Severn Valley Country Park. A further £50 was donated by entomologist, Keith Fowler of Shropshire Invertebrate Group and £55 from Mrs Shirley Fenwick, daughter of one of the Volunteers. A bird-bath, donated by Tom and Joyce Roberts in memory of their little dog, Jenny, has been placed in the garden to provide a source of water for birds, bees and butterflies. The West Midlands Branch of Butterfly Conservation has chosen this project as one of the sites to celebrate 40 years of Butterfly Conservation in the West Midlands and have donated an interpretation board highlighting the importance of butterflies, moths and bees.

The chosen site is in the car park in front of the Park's Visitor Centre.

During the Spring of 2018 an area of vegetation and scrub was cleared and some topsoil delivered and levelled. A range of Bee and Butterfly friendly plants were planted, including Buddleia, Honeysuckle and Alder Buckthorn, known for their value to insects. In addition, native wild flowers such as Ox-eye Daisy, Field Scabious, Cowslips, Red Campion, Bird'sfoot Trefoil and Meadow Cranesbill which are vital to many butterflies were kindly donated by Ashwoods Nursery of Kingswinford, were also planted. Herbaceous garden perennials, such as Hellebores, Hebes, Sedums, Marjoram, Thyme, Salvias and Erysimum which are favoured by pollinators were supplied by Cook's Nursery of Stourport-on-Severn and Ashwoods Nursery of Kingswinford. Other plants have been donated by the Volunteers and the garden will be maintained by them. Seeds of colourful Annuals were sown to provide a spectacle of colour as well as nectar for bees and butterflies.

Redundant railway sleepers have been securely positioned around the edge to contain the soil. Images of insects have been engraved on the surface of the railway sleepers by the Volunteers and painted by Shirley Fenwick using acrylic paint.

As the garden matures, further plants, upon which pollinators, butterflies and moths depend, will be added in a bid to help these important insects to increase and thrive.

As humans we rely on these pollinating insects to pollinate many of our crops. They also form a vital role in the food chain, providing food for birds and other wildlife.

Those of us who enjoy the thrill of seeing these wonderful insects as they move from flower to flower, or as they bask in the sunshine, will derive much pleasure and satisfaction from being close to Nature. Care for them and they will care for us in return. You can make a difference too by doing something similar in your own garden.

Bill Watkins
Volunteer and Treasurer of Severn Valley Country Park Supporters Group

Diptera Report 2018

Nigel Jones

The drought of 2018 unsurprisingly had a severe effect upon flies. Numbers were drastically reduced and by mid July abundance and diversity seemed to hit a low that I had not experienced in thirty plus years of Diptera study. Ironically the season was a bumper year for new species in Shropshire, but I think that this was more a result of my being forced to look at more obscure flies, as the general supply of more obvious flies quite literally dried up. At the time of writing, I am still identifying material from 2018, mostly very small flies which take some time to determine. Meanwhile, the count for new Shropshire species, found in 2018, stands at 24. These are listed below with notes on a few of the scarcer species.

Anthomyiidae: *Egle subarctica* Huckett, 1965; *Egle inermis* Ackland, *1970; Egle suwai* Michelsen - all from Venus Pool and Venus Bank, 2009; *Pegomya meridiana* (Villeneuve, 1923) - Prees Heath; *Pegomya vanduzeei* (Malloch, 1919) - Prees Heath.
Asteidae: *Leiomyza birkheadi* Gibbs in Gibbs & Papp, 2007- Haughmond Hill.
Carnidae: *Meoneura flavifacies* Collin, 1930 - Cleobury Mortimer.
Chloropidae: *Cetema neglectum* Tonnoir, 1921 - Long Mynd; *Chlorops calceatus* Meigen, 1830 – Prees Heath.
Dolichopodidae: *Chrysotus laesus* (Wiedemann, 1817) – Prees Heath.
Drosophilidae: *Drosophila littoralis* Meigen, 1830 – Long Mynd.
Empididae: *Hilara clypeata* Meigen, 1822; *Rhamphomyia laevipes* (Fallén, 1816).
Heleomyzidae: *Eccoptomera longiseta* (Meigen, 1830) Brown Moss; *Tephrochlaena oraria* Collin, 1943 – Prees Heath.
Lauxaniidae: *Homoneura interstincta* (Fallén, 1820) – Shrewsbury; *Trigonometopus frontalis* (Meigen, 1830) – Shrewsbury (see Joy of Vacuuming item).
Milichiidae: *Phyllomyza rubricornis* Schmitz, 1923 – Prees Heath.
Muscidae: *Helina pulchella* (Ringdahl, 1918) – Shrewsbury; *Spilogona denigrata (Meigen, 1826)* – Black Marsh Wood ; *Thricops simplex* (Wiedemann, 1817) – Wrekin.
Sphaeroceridae: *Gigalimosina flaviceps* (Zetterstedt, 1847) - Wrekin; *Borborillus uncinatus* (Duda, 1923) – Brown Moss; *Borborillus vitripennis* (Meigen, 1830) – Brown Moss (see Joy of Vacuuming item).

Two "willow catkin flies" *Egle subarctica* and *E. inermis* collected from willows at Venus Pool and Venusbank on 9 April are both Nationally Scarce and are considered to be associated with "fens and damp woodland with sallow carr and scrub" (Falk & Pont 2017). A very rarely recorded Muscid fly *Helina pulchella* was swept from an ash tree in my Shrewsbury garden on 11 July. It is designated as Near Threatened and this is apparently only the second post 1969 UK record for it (*pers. com.* James McGill). Adrian Pont at Oxford University Museum kindly verified the specimen (Fig. 1). The only breeding record for this species is from the nest of a Tawny Owl *Strix aluco.* In view of this it is quite possible that this fly lives in tree canopies, thus eluding capture, making it appear to be much scarcer than it actually may be. A survey of Prees Heath provided six new county species, the most significant of which is the diminutive "freeloader" fly *Phyllomyza rubricornis* for which there are very few UK records. It is thought to be a nest associate of ants.

Reference

Falk, S.J, & Pont, A.C. 2017. *A Provisional Assessment of the Status of Calypterate flies in the UK*. Natural England. Commissioned Reports, Number234

Figure 1: *Helina pulchella* male. Specimen from Shrewsbury, now in the Oxford University Museum collection.

The Joy of Vacuum Sampling

Nigel Jones

The Wednesday "Joy of Wildlife group" regularly turn up insect goodies, and Diptera often feature in the vacuum samples. The vacuum sucks up flies (and other insects) that usually avoid the searching, sweep nets and beating trays employed by most entomologists, so it was no surprise that the wingless Sphaerocerid fly *Crumomyia pedestris* (Meigen, 1830), a fly that by necessity clings close to the ground, fell prey to the vacuum on 7 February 2018, at Albrighton. Although this is considered to be a widespread and common fly, in many years of sweeping for flies I have only encountered it once. Fortunately, on this occasion, David Williams was on hand with his camera and captured some excellent live images of this very distinctive fly (Figures 1- 3).

Early in 2018 I gave Nigel Cane-Honeysett some plastic tubes with a request to collect any flies he could from his vacuum samples. The first batch from the old river bed SSSI in Shrewsbury, collected on 14 March contained a rather battered, but still splendid *Trigonometopus frontalis* (Meigen, 1830), a Lauxaniid fly I had never seen before and a first for Shropshire. This is an easy fly to identify with its very distinctive elongated triangular shaped head – see Fig. 4.

Further "county first" Wednesday joy has been provided by the vacuum samples, including two fully winged Sphaerocerid flies collected at Brown Moss on 7 November: *Borborillus uncinatus* (Duda, 1923) and *B. vitripennis* (Meigen, 1830).

Figures 1 – 3 *Crumomyia pedestris* Photos: David Williams

Figure 4 *Trigonometopus frontalis* Photo: Nigel Jones

Dipping into dung beetles (Coleoptera: Scarabaeoidea)

Frances Riding

In the last edition I introduced the Hydrophilinae dung beetles which are recorded with the water beetles. The dung beetles that most people are familiar with are found within the terrestrial Family Scarabaeoibea. The Subfamily Aphodiinae contains the tribe Aphodiini which, until recently, had the bulk of species within the genus *Aphodius* (Jessop, 1986). With reference to Duff (2018) only three species are in the genus *Aphodius*, the rest are now split over twenty-nine genera. The NHM listings still name all beetles under the genus *Aphodius* as it was last updated in 2007 according to the website.

There are 46 species of Aphodiini in Britain with, as in all beetles, a range of sizes and colours. One of the most common dung beetles in the county, though rather drab in appearance, is *Aphodius (Melinopterus) prodromus* (Fig 1), which is found mainly in cow and horse dung, often in large numbers. A second common species is *Aphodius (Melinopterus) sphacelatus* (Fig 2). This is a spring and autumn species of various animal deposits. Both *A. prodromus* and *A. sphacelatus* are often found together. *Aphodius (Nimbus) contaminatus* (Fig 3), is a beetle that is fairly distinctive in being very hairy, the clypeus has tufts of long hairs and the pronotum has a fringe of hairs. Though supposed to favour horse dung I have found this in sheep only.

A number of species have pale elytra with well differentiated dark markings which makes identification easier. Probably the most distinctive of these species is *Aphodius (Volinus) sticticus* (Fig. 4). Another distinctive species is *Aphodius (Limarus) zenkari* (Fig 5), a fairly small dark species with the stria appearing to be raised. My record at Pellrhadley Hill this year appears to be a first for Shropshire. Lane and Mann (2016) in their review suggest -

'This species, with records from less than 100 hectads since 31st December 1989, would normally qualify as Nationally Scarce (NS), but the authors believe that it is under-recorded and is likely to be present currently in more than 100 hectads of the National grid. Some decline is possibly indicated in the north of its range, although this may be due to under recording. The species is likely to be under recorded because it favours wooded habitats which are generally harder to work for dung-feeding species than open habitats (pers obs). For this reason and for the fact that it has been recorded from 62 hectads since 1990, its GB Rarity status has been downgraded. A contributory factor towards its stability in our region may be due to its association with deer dung. Deer have not only increased in recent years, and particularly in many Midlands districts (pers obs.), but their dung is unlikely to be affected directly by the use of endectocides.'

Several of the Aphodiini are brightly coloured with the elytra being russet, red or orange. Some brighter than others. *Aphodius (Esymus) merdarius* (Fig. 6) is a small orange/yellow beetle with a black sutural stripe. It is uncommon, though possibly under recorded, with only three records for Shropshire. Another, larger beetle, is *Aphodius (Aphodius) pedellus* (Fig. 7) which is orange to dark red in colour. This species has been mis-recorded as *Aphodius (Aphodius) foedidus* in the past (Lane and Mann, 2016). There are two modern records for *A. pedellus* in Shropshire and two historical.

There are a couple of species which are very difficult to miss being large. One is *Aphodius (Acrossus) rufipes* (Fig 8). Colour varies from almost black to bronze. It is common in horse

dung but can be found in other types. The other is *Aphodius (Teuchestes) fosser* (Fig. 9), a large rounded, shiny black beetle.

When searching for dung beetles it is not uncommon to find many species within one dung pile. These include not only the Aphodiini but also the genus *Onthophagus* which are the burrowing dung beetles. Two that are occasionally found are *Onthophagus coenobita* (Fig 10) and *Onthophagus similis* (Fig. 11).

Dung beetle recording in Shropshire is in its infancy and there is plenty of scope for people who wish to get stuck in – literally. Apart from the above mentioned genus, there are several others to be found in dung including many Histeroidea, though these prey on fly and beetle larvae within the dung (Halstead, 1963)

References

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Lane, S.A. and Mann, D.J. 2016. *A review of the status of the beetles of Great Britain: The stag beetles, dor beetles, dung beetles, chafers and their allies - Lucanidae, Geotrupidae, Trogidae and Scarabaeidae* (NECR224) Species Status No.31. Natural England Publications.

Fig 1. *Aphodius (Melinopterus) prodromus* (Brahm, 1790) 5.5 mm

Fig 2. *Aphodius (Melinopterus) sphacelatus* (Panzer, 1798) 5 mm

Fig 3. *Aphodius (Nimbus) contaminatus* (Herbst,1783) 5.5 mm

Fig 4. *Aphodius (Volinus) sticticus* (Panzer,1798) 5 mm

Fig 5. *Aphodius (Limarus) zenkari* (Germar, 1813) 5 mm

Fig 6. *Aphodius (Esymus) merdarius* (Fabricius, 1775) 4.5 mm

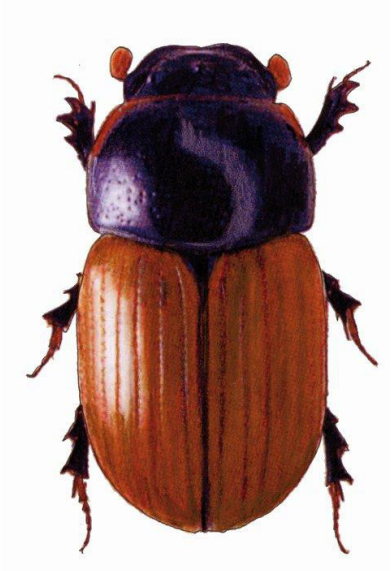

Fig 7. *Aphodius (Aphodius) pedellus* (De Geer, 1774) 6.5 mm

Fig 8. *Aphodius (Acrossus) rufipes* (Linnaeus,1758) 11 mm

Fig 9. *Aphodius (Teuchestes) fosser* (Linnaeus, 1758) 6-12 mm

Fig 10. *Onthophagus coenobita* (Herbst,1783) 8 mm

Fig 11. *Onthophagus similis* (Scriba, 1790) 6 mm

Rare jumping spider *Heliophanus dampfi* Schenkel, 1923 found at Whixall Moss

Richard Burkmar

Prior to 2018, the jumping spider *Heliophaus dampfi* was only confirmed at a single Welsh site – Cors Fochno, an estuarine raised bog in Cardiganshire and a number of raised bogs in the Stirling area of Scotland (http://srs.britishspiders.org.uk/portal.php/p/Summary/s/Heliophanus+dampfi/). In fact, Cheshire Record LERC had records of *H. dampfi* for Holcroft Moss, a raised bog on the Cheshire/Lancashire border dating from 2000, but these could not be confirmed because the recorder, Alan Scott had died and the whereabouts of his vouchers was unknown. But in June 2018 I carried out some spider sampling at Holcroft and collected a female *H. dampfi*. Subsequent visits by myself and R. Gallon produced more mature females (Burkmar and Gallon, in press). (We also discovered the jumping spider *Sibianor larae* previously unknown from the UK.)

On 25th August I accompanied Richard Gallon and Stephen Barlow to Whixall Moss to continue a series of visits made by Richard and Stephen. Richard was targeting the two jumping spiders *Sitticus floricola* and *S. caracis*, both of which we found in good numbers (Gallon and Burkmar, in press). But in an unexpected twist, I collected a mature male *H. dampfi* on the English side (Shropshire) and Richard collected a sub-adult female *H. dampfi* on the Welsh side of the moss.

Whilst it may have been a 'good year' for *H. dampfi*, there must surely be more to this sudden increase in known sites for the species. I can think of three contributing factors:

1 It is note-worthy that Richard and I collected all the *H. dampfi* with GVac – a technique which is good for collecting smaller spiders. Adult *H. dampfi* can be as small as 3 mm in length and easy to miss using other collecting techniques.

2 *H. dampfi* is similar in appearance to the much more common and widespread species *H. cupreus* and *H. flavipes*. Both of these species occur in a wide variety of habitats including bogs and heathlands but they are noticeably larger than *H. dampfi*; females of *H. dampfi* are 3.2 to 5 mm whilst females of the other two are 5 to 6 mm (Roberts 1987). I suspect that adult *H. dampfi* may sometimes have been overlooked in the field as immatures of the other more common *Heliophanus* species and not collected.

3 Finally when the first volume of spiderists 'bible' was first published (Roberts, 1985), *H. dampfi* was not known in Britain and therefore not included in the book with four other species of *Heliophanus*. After it's discovery, its description was published in an addendum which is included at the back of the 'compact' edition which most arachnologists use (Roberts, 1993). Consequently, the illustrations of the genitalia of *H. dampfi* is rather 'hidden away' and not in the same place as the other *Heliophanus* species. If not viewed with a sufficiently critical eye, it would be possible to accept the genitalia of *H. dampfi* as non-typical examples of one of the two common species illustrated in the main part of the book. (I can assert this possible explanation with some conviction since I came *very* close to falling into this trap myself when I found my first female at Holcroft!)

The lesson from this is that any *Heliophanus* collected from a bog that is larger than 3 mm is worthy of collection and a very close look. There are almost certainly many more sites for this inconspicuous little jumping spider to be discovered.

Burkmar, R. and Gallon, R. (in press) *Sibianor larae* Logunov, 2001 a Salticidae new to Britain, with notes on *Heliophanus dampfi* Schenkel, 1923 and other spiders from Holcroft Moss SSSI. Bulletin of the British Arachnological Society.

Gallon, R. and Burkmar, R. (in press) *Sitticus floricola* and *Sitticus caricis* from Fenn's & Whixall Moss, with *Carorita limnaea* new to Wales. Spider Recording Scheme News.

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Hemiptera report 2017

Keith Fowler

Psyllids

This remains an under-recorded group. Most of the records were submitted by Dan Knight and me. However, there were twelve others who submitted at least one record. All records are welcome! 214 records were added to the county list.

Two species were added this year:

- *Cacopsylla mali* (Schmidberger, 1836) (Hemiptera: Psyllidae) – found when apple was beaten at Mahorall Farm on 24 July 2017;
- *Craspedolepta sonchi* (Förster, 1848) (Hemiptera: Psyllidae) – was swept from grassland on The Stiperstones on 2 July 2017.

One to keep an eye out for

Arytaina genistae. Photo by Bob Kemp

The species in the picture is *Arytaina genistae*, a common species, photographed by Bob Kemp on 13 September 2017. It is one of two psyllids found on broom, but it is the only one of the two that has the dark streaks on the wings making it easy to identify.

Auchenorrhyncha

As last year an encouraging number of recorders, twenty-five, contributed at least one record this year. However the majority of the records came from the two recorders named elsewhere in this report. 923 records were added to the county list.

Six new species added this year:

- *Delphacodes capnodes* (Scott, 1870) (Hemiptera: Delphacidae) – was found using a vacuum sampler at Whixall Moss on 15 February 2017;
- *Eupteryx tenella* (Fallén, 1806) (Hemiptera: Cicadellidae) – was swept from the marginal vegetation of a lane near Stapeley on 23 May 2017;
- *Kelisia punctulum* (Kirschbaum, 1868) (Hemiptera: Delphacidae) – was beaten from the tall, dense, wet vegetation in the Old River Beds SSSI, Shrewsbury on 23 July 2017;
- *Kybos calyculus* (Cerutti, 1939) (Hemiptera: Cicadellidae) - was beaten from birch in the upland grassland of The Long Mynd on 13 August 2017;
- *Oncodelphax pullula* (Boheman, 1852) (Hemiptera: Delphacidae) – was found by Nigel Cane-Honeysett at Rhos Fiddle SWT Reserve on 24 May 2017;
- *Viridicerus ustulatus* (Mulsant & Rey, 1855) (Hemiptera: Cicadellidae) – was beaten from poplar at the margin of a meadow in Halesfield, Telford on 20 September 2017.

Athysanus argentarius. Photo by David Williams

One not so new

This is *Athysanus argentarius*, photographed by David Williams on 20 September 2017 (shame about the seed on its head). The species was first found by Sue Hiatt in the Cabbage Patch, an area of rough grassland in Wrockwardine Wood, Telford in 2012. It had not been seen since until it turned up in the imaginatively named Halesfield 24 grassland in September this year.

Shieldbugs and allies

After a couple of years of the number of records for this group declining, 2017 saw a resurgence in recorder activity, with 536 records submitted with a magnificent 53 recorders submitting at least one record. Keep it up!

The number of records submitted via iRecord increased from about 5% of the total in 2016 to 10% in 2017.

No new species were recorded in 2017.

Other Terrestrial Heteroptera

The number of records in this group continues to grow. 1741 records were added to the county list. 33 recorders submitted at least one record, but like all the other groups the bulk were submitted by two recorders. Nevertheless I am very happy that this many people have recognised and submitted records of hemiptera other than the more showy shieldbugs and friends.

Ten species were recorded for the first time:

- *Acompocoris alpinus* Reuter, 1875 (Hemiptera: Acanthocoridae) – beaten from Scot's Pine growing in heathland on The Ercall on16 November 2016;
- *Anthocoris simulans* Reuter, 1884 (Hemiptera: Acanthocoridae) – two swept from mistletoe in orchards in Neen Sollars on 19 June 2017;
- *Campylomma annulicorne* (Signoret, 1865) (Hemiptera: Miridae) – a couple were found on osier by Dan Knight in Llwyn-y-groes on 22 July 2017;
- *Drymus pumilio* Puton, 1878 (Hemiptera: Lygaeidae) – was collected from mixed vegetation in a wet area of Dale Coppice, Coalbrookdale on 26 October 2016. Two more were found in 2017; one at Blackbridge Quarry, Llynclys on 19 April 2017 and one at Lightmoor, Telford on 11 October 2017 by Nigel Cane-Honeysett. All three records were part of catches from vacuum sampling;
- *Hypseloecus visci* (Puton, 1888) (Hemiptera: Miridae) – was found on 14 July 2017 at Pam's Pools in Underton as a result of beating mistletoe on hawthorn. Further visits to orchards in the south of the county found it at four other sites, always on mistletoe but on apple;
- *Megalonotus emarginatus* (Rey, 1888) (Hemiptera: Lygaeidae) – found by Maria Justamond on 14 May 2017 from the marginal vegetation bordering the railway track at Nant Mawr Visitor Centre;
- *Nysius huttoni* White, 1878 (Hemiptera: Lygaeidae) – a male and two females were collected by vacuum sampling the vegetation at the disused Ternhill sand quarry on 19 July 2017;
- *Orthotylus bilineatus* (Fallén, 1807) (Hemiptera: Miridae) – was swept from a poplar situated in grassland at Coppice Leasowes, Church Stretton on 16 August 2017;
- *Salicarus roseri* (Herrich-Schäffer, 1838) (Hemiptera: Miridae) – was found by Dan Knight in Gobowen on 25 June 2017;
- *Scolopostethus grandis* Horváth, 1881 (Hemiptera: Lygaeidae) – was collected by sweeping at Blackbridge Quarry, Llynclys on 19 April 2017. A second was found during the bioblitz at St. Michael's Church, Ford on 26 August 2017.

Online distribution atlases

Atlases that include all the records received for these four groups of hemiptera are available on the Biolinks website at https://www.fscbiodiversity.uk

They can be viewed by selecting "Resources", then "Online Maps & Atlases" and finally the atlas of interest:

- Shropshire shieldbugs
- Shropshire psyllids
- Shropshire terrestrial hemiptera
- Shropshire auchenorrhyncha

All the atlases have been updated to include the records submitted during 2017.

Psocoptera report - 2017

Keith Fowler

The number of records on the county list has increased from 459 to 836, as with last year not quite double, but not far off. I am grateful to all the recorders, especially Dan Knight, for taking an interest in this group and sending me their records.

A lot of work still needs to be done. These are relatively abundant insects so should be found readily. Many are easy to identify using the pictorial online key available on the National Barkfly Recording Scheme website (http://www.brc.ac.uk/schemes/barkfly/homepage.htm).

Having tried to encourage you to look for psocoptera and written that many are easy to identify using online resources then I must add a note of caution. I find that telling two of the most common *Ectopsocus* species apart difficult. I always check the genitalia (males and females) to confirm the species. (Pictures of the male and female genitalia are included in the online key.) The key suggest that they can be separated by the size of the patches on the wings, but I have found too many times that when I think I have one of the pair it turns out, on closer inspection, to be the other. Please take care when recording these two species.

I have now undertaken iRecord verification responsibility for Shropshire psocoptera and have cleared the small backlog. I apologise to anyone who has experienced a delay (and frustration) in having their records verified. I hope that I will be able to keep on top of submissions in future; feel free to badger me if you think I have overlooked one of your records.

New species

Only two new species were found this year

- *Amphigerontia contaminata* (Stephens, 1836) (Psocoptera: Psocidae) – a female was swept from rose and a male beaten from birch towards the summit of Black Rhadley Hill on a sunny but blustery day on 28 August 2017;
- *Chilenocaecilius ornatipennis* (Blanchard, 1851) (Psocoptera: Paracaeciliidae) – one was beaten from holly and a second from ivy in All Stretton on 1 February 2017. Since then it has been found at Harton Hollow SWT Reserve; Loamhole Dingle, Coalbrookdale; Gough's Coppice, Church Stretton and Kinsley Wood, Knighton.

Reminder

An atlas of the psocoptera records is included on the Biolinks website at https://www.fscbiodiversity.uk. It can be viewed by selecting the "Visualise" menu, then "Online maps and atlases", and finally "Shropshire psocoptera". It has been updated to include last year's records.

And finally

Metylophorus nebulosus. Photo by David Williams

This photograph of *Metylophorous nebulosus* was taken by David Williams at Lipley, near Cheswardine, on 14 July 2017. This is a large species (6-7mm) and is widespread throughout Britain. We only have five recorded in the county. Please keep an eye out for the species during the summer on branches of deciduous and coniferous trees and bushes.

One Hit Wonders

Keith Fowler

In the good old days of the hit parade we had artists who hit the heights with one song then were never heard of again. The "One Hit Wonders". English cricket is scattered with them as, no doubt, are soccer, rugby union, in fact any representative activity. Someone achieves the ultimate accolade of representing their country or county then disappearing into obscurity after a single appearance.

I was doing some work on the county lists for which I am responsible and I was surprised how many species only had one record. There were 84 amongst the terrestrial hemiptera and psocoptera. The majority of these can be explained as they were recently recorded for the first time in the county, but 17 were recorded in the last century and a further 5 in the first decade of this century.

Why have we only found one of these species? They cannot all have been just flying through and been unlucky enough to have been caught. Are they species that live in normally inaccessible places but just happened to fall victim to an adventurous collector? Are they difficult to identify so are assigned to the odds and sods box that are left for identification at a later date, and that later date never comes? Are they similar to other common species so escape identification by being mistaken for the common species? There must be many other scenarios but one hit wonders are what they are.

Let us celebrate their fleeting fame with a "Top Ten" based on vintage and raise their hopes that somebody may take up their cause and at least one companion for them will be found.

In order of date recorded (some approximate) they are:

1 *Lygus pratensis* (Linnaeus, 1758) (Hemiptera: Miridae) found by K G V Smith in September 1948 in Mogg Forest near Brockton. The *Lygus* genus was clarified in the 1950's with a revised key in the 1960's (Ryan, 2015) so we cannot be certain that it was this species recorded. However, records of this species nationally show a good collection of records to the east of the county so it may reappear here one day.

2 *Empicoris culiciformis* (DeGeer, 1773) (Hemiptera: Reduviidae) recorded by Dr. D A Shepherd in 1979 in Fenemere. This bug is a smaller version of the more familiar and often recorded *E. vagabundus*. It is possible therefore that *E. culiciformis* may have been mis-identified and recorded as *E. vagabundus*. Per Kirby 2015 *E. vagabundus* is 6mm and grater whereas *E. culiciformis* is 5.5mm and smaller. There is a third member of the genus, the very scarce *E. baerensprungi* which is a similar size to *E. culiciformis* but it has a distinct tubercle on its pronotum on the mid-line at the rear; *E. culiciformis* has no tubercle.

3 *Macropsis fuscula* (Zetterstedt, 1828) (Hemiptera: Cicadellidae) collected by Hollier et al by the Montgomery Canal in 1985. It can be found on bramble (Le Quesne, 1965). It is possible that this has been overlooked as it is similar to other *Macropsis* species.

4 *Verdanus abdominalis* (Fabricius 1803) (Hemiptera: Cicadellidae) found by J A Hollier on The Wrekin on 4th August 1986. It may have been overlooked as it bears a passing resemblance to the frequently recorded *Arthaldeus pascuellus*. *V. abdominalis* can be found on grasses often in ranker vegetation (le Quesne, 1969) (There is a second *Verdanus* species *V. bensoni* which is similar but the two members of the genus can be distinguished by checking the external genitalia. This has not been found in Shropshire.)

5 *Aphrophora pectoralis* Matsumura, 1903 (Hemiptera: Aphrophoridae) collected from Wem Moss by Dr D A Shepherd on 8th June 1987. This is one of three large species of froghopper in the genus *Aphrophora*. There are some minor differences in external features between the species but really they should be examined using a microscope. I have only found *A. major*, but I live in hope.

6 *Cicadula quinquenotata* (Boheman, 1845) (Hemiptera: Cicadellidae) also recorded by Dr. D A Shepherd at Wem Moss on 8th June 1987. One of a number of similar leafhoppers which are yellow with black markings on the head. There are some differences in the markings on the head that may indicate this species

but the male's aedeagus should be checked to confirm. Probably associated with sphagnum moss areas (Le Quesne, 1969).

7 *Globiceps juniperi* Reuter, 1902 (Hemiptera: Miridae) was the third one-hit wonder found by Dr. D A Shepherd at Wem Moss on 8th June 1987. This is one of three members of this genus and all are classified as "Nationally Scarce". The three species are very similar but although they can be separated with care on external features ideally the male genitalia needs to be checked. The mirid *Dryophilocoris flavoquadrimaculatus* which has a similar appearance is recorded regularly so this is another one on which to spend a little more time before recording.

8 *Psallus variabilis* (Fallén, 1807) (hemiptera: Miridae) collected in the Wyre Forest, north of Lem Hill on 19th August by B S Nau. The genus *Psallus* contains many similar looking bugs that need careful separation with identification usually based on the aedeagus of the male. Unfortunately its host plant, oak, is not helpful as a number of Psallus species occur on oak. Perseverance is needed to find and identify this species.

9 *Graphosoma lineatum* (Linnaeus, 1758) (Hemiptera: Pentatomidae), a striking red and black striped shield bug, found in his garden by Ian Thompson in 1990 after he had purchased some plants from a nursery (Boardman, 2014). This is not a native species, but it may turn up again sometime in the future.

10 *Nysius thymi* (Wolff, 1804) (Hemiptera: Lygaeidae) collected by S C Littlewood from Ludlow on 1st August 1990. One of seven members of the *Nysius* genus. A few can be separated on external characteristics but the rest, including this species, need to be determined by reference to the genitalia. Advice in the key (Kirby, 2015) on finding *Nysius* is "Variation in size and colour within a species can be considerable, and there may be several species at a site, or indeed under a single plant. Always take a representative set covering the range of variation, and ensure that these include a good number of males."

Please keep an eye out for all of these. I will be happy to check any specimens that you think may be one of these species.

Shropshire Entomology Day

9.30 – 16.00 Sunday 27 January 2019

Booking fee £10 book online (search for "Shropshire ento day 2019")

09.30 Refreshments

10.00 Welcome from the Chair
Sue Townsend

Draft Programme:

Keynote 1:
Creating an Entomological Illustration
Carim Nahaboo

Leaf mining insects
Mike Shurmer

Beetles in Shropshire
Caroline Uff

The Nesting Preferences of Wild Solitary Bees -
Aaron Bhambra

The first year of BioLinks in the West Midlands -
Charlie Bell

Speed talks:

Making spider recording accessible to all -
Holly Dillon

A year of moth surveys at Attingham Park -
Tom Hayek

Clubtail dragonfly surveys on the Severn -
Eleanor Colver

Keynote 2:
Live at the Fly Olympics - a Winston Churchill Memorial Trust travelling fellowship
Pete Boardman

16.00 Close

The County Recorder Network

This information is accurate at the time of publication. All these people carry out their roles as volunteers and we are indebted to their hard work.

Lepidoptera (butterflies and moths)

Butterflies – Tony Jacques
Email: rec-vc40@vc40tj.plus.com

Macro-moths – Tony Jacques
Email: rec-vc40@vc40tj.plus.com

Micro-moths – Mike Shurmer
Email: mpshurmer@gmail.com

Odonata (damselflies and dragonflies)

Dragonflies and damselflies – Vicki Nall
Email: victoriajanenall@gmail.com

Hemiptera (true bugs)

Terrestrial Bugs (now including shieldbugs), the Auchenorrhyncha and Psylloidea (Hemiptera) – Keith Fowler –
Email: keith.c.fowler@blueyonder.co.uk

Aquatic Bugs (Hemiptera) – Frances Riding
Email: franrid@hotmail.com

Coleoptera (beetles)

Beetles (all families except Ladybirds and water beetles) – Caroline Uff
Email: caroline.uff@nationaltrust.org.uk

Ladybirds (Coccinellidae) – Gerry Thomas
Email: gerry.thomas7@btinternet.com

Water beetles – Frances Riding
Email: franrid@hotmail.com

Diptera (true flies)

Brachyceran flies (Empidid flies, hoverflies, robber flies, horse flies, soldier flies, tachinid flies, conopid flies, picture-winged flies etc) – Nigel Jones
Email: vc40insects@talktalk.net

Nematoceran flies (craneflies, winter gnats, bibionids, mosquitoes, etc) – Pete Boardman
Email: pete.ento22@gmail.com

Leaf-mining flies (Agromyzidae) – Godfrey Blunt
Email: blunt.sig195@btinternet.com

Hymenoptera (bees, wasps, ants etc)

Aculeates (bees, wasps and ants) and **sawflies** (symphyta) – Ian Cheeseborough
Email: crossocerus1@gmail.com

Aquatic insects

Mayflies (Ephemeroptera) - Ian Thompson
Email: iansthompson@f2s.com

Caddisflies (Trichocera) and **Stoneflies** (Plecoptera) – Frances Riding
Email: franrid@hotmail.com

Orthopteroids

Grasshoppers, Crickets, Ground hoppers, Earwigs etc (Orthopteroids) – David Williams
Email: dw1971@btinternet.com

Arachnids

Spiders. Harvestman. Pseudoscorpions – The Shropshire Spider Group
Email: nigel@canehoneysett.plus.com

Hexapods

Springtails (Collembola) – Charlie Bell – Email: c.bell@field-studies-council.org

Molluscs

Mags Cousins: mags@bagbatch.co.uk